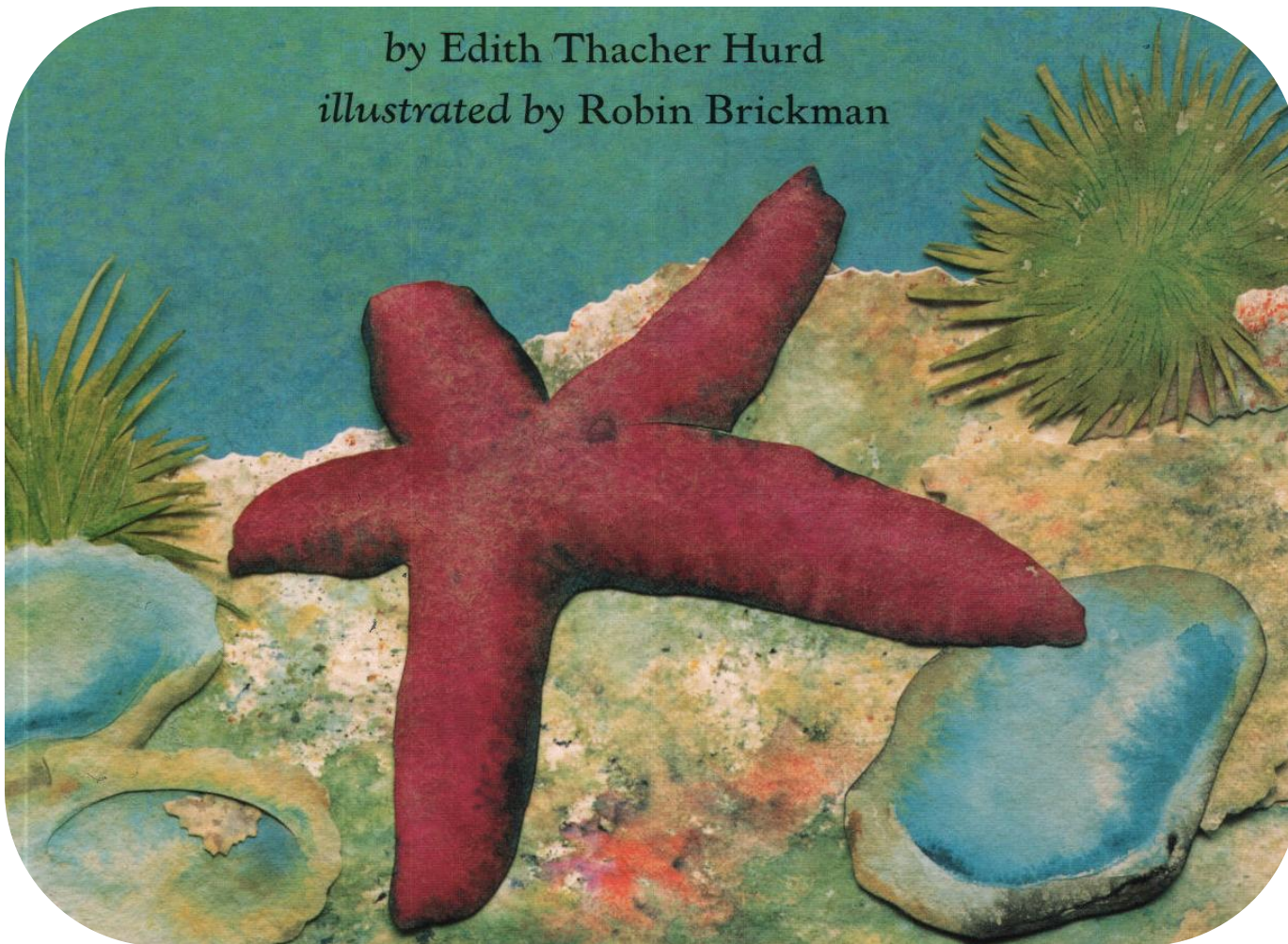


Starfish

by Edith Thacher Hurd
illustrated by Robin Brickman

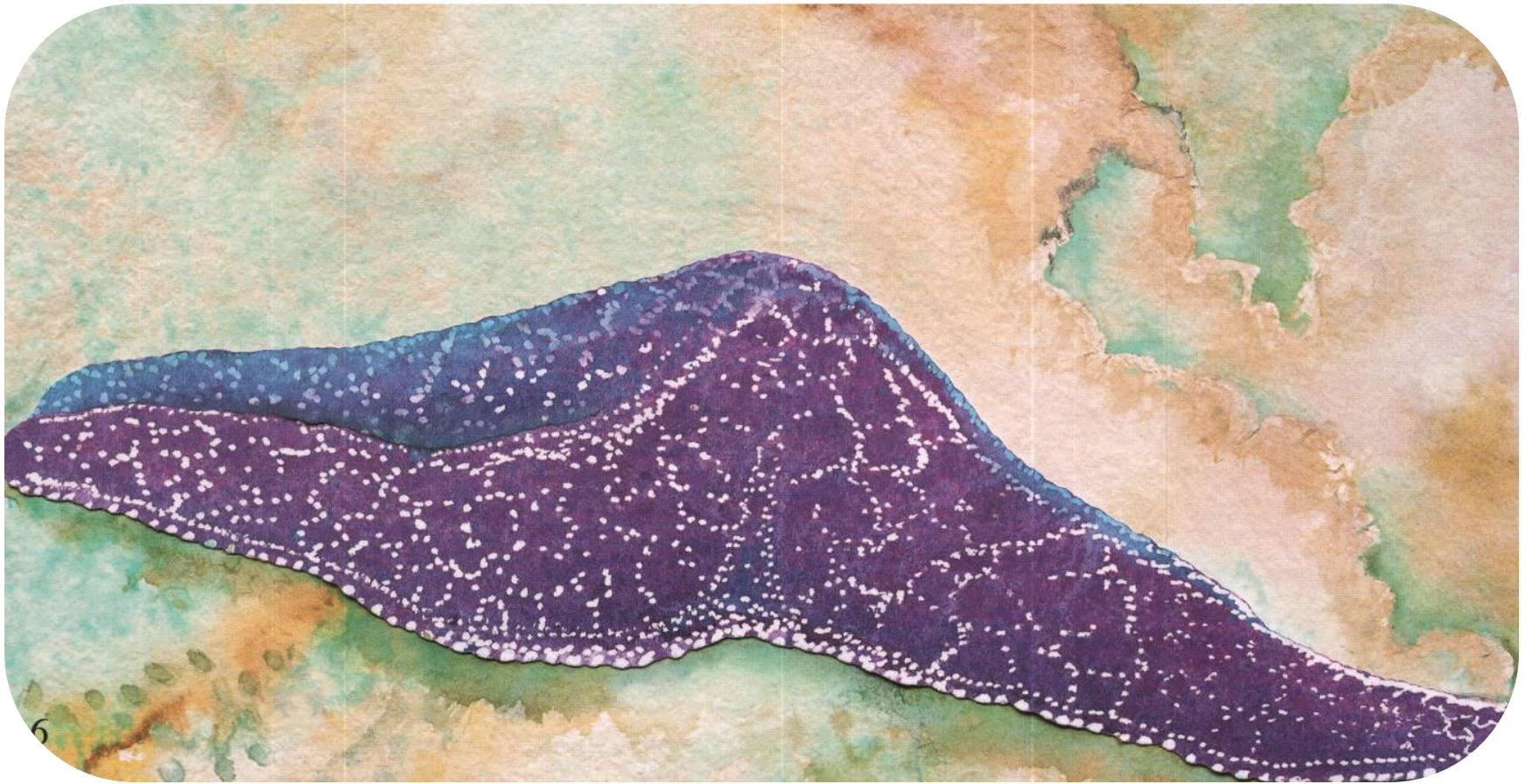


By: Edith Thacher Hurd

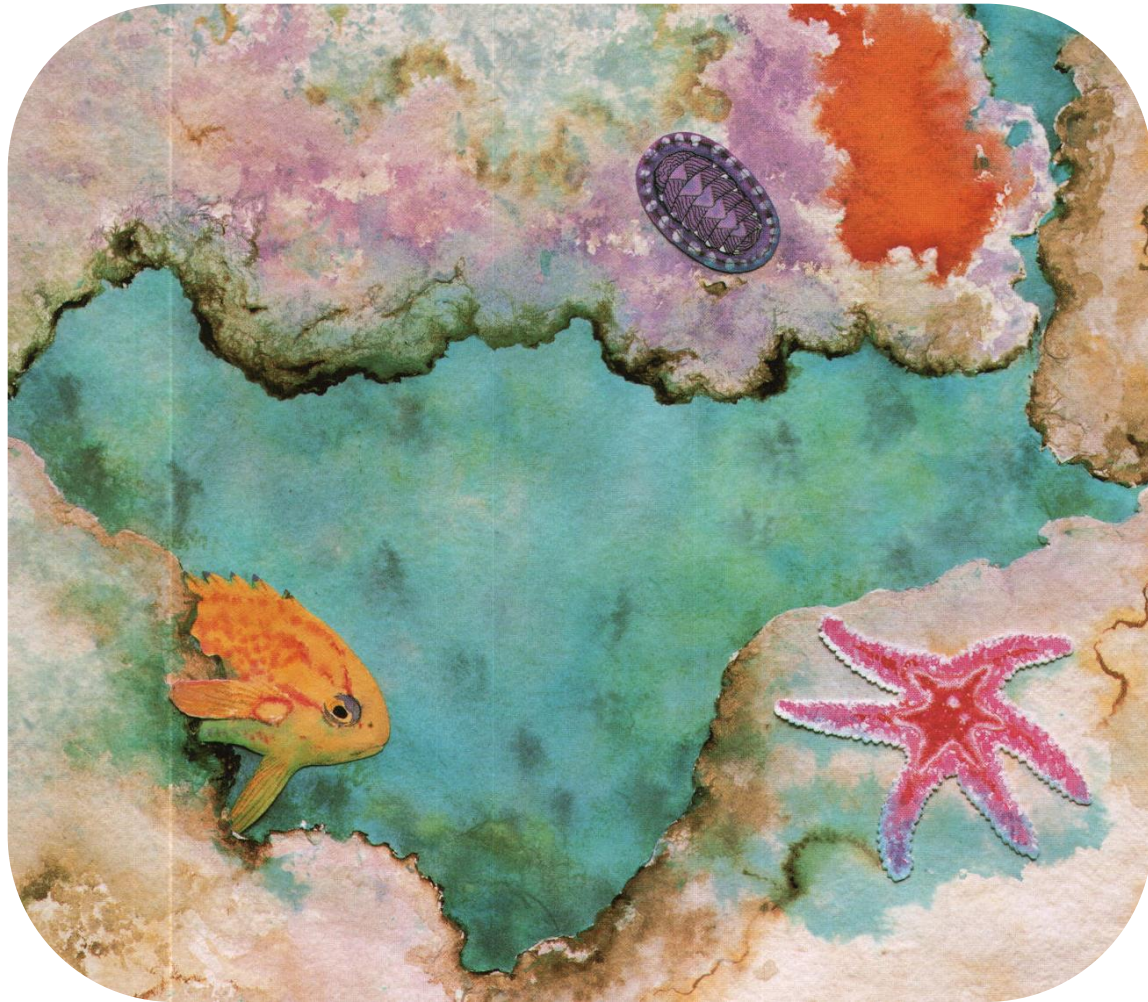
Starfish live in the sea.
Starfish live deep down in the sea.
Starfish live in pools by the sea.



Some starfish are purple.



Some starfish are pink.



This is the sunflower starfish. It is the biggest of all.
Starfish have many arms. The arms are called rays.
Starfish have arms but no legs.



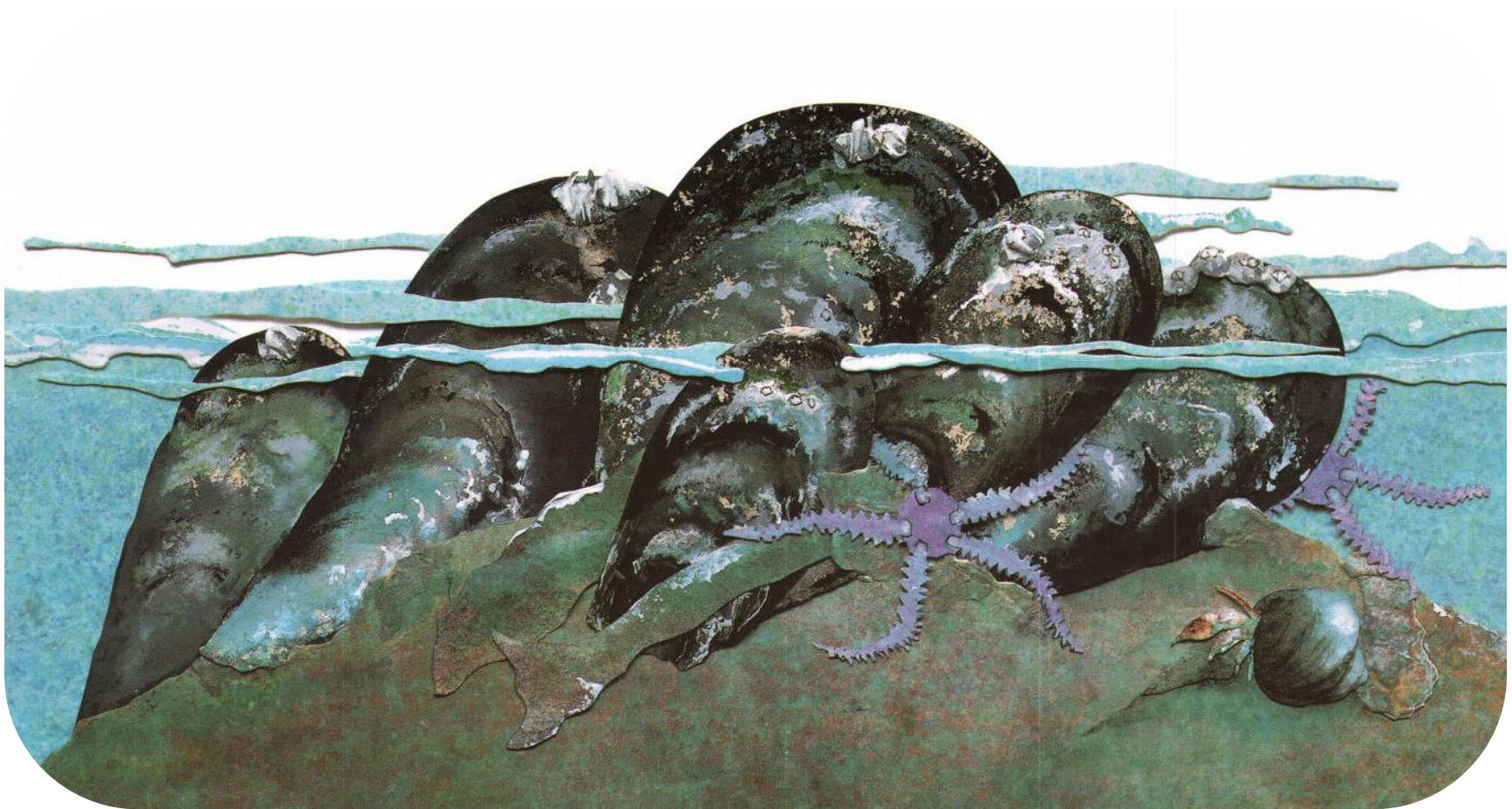
Starfish have feet but no toes.
They glide and slide on tiny tube feet.
They move as slowly as a snail.



The basket star looks like a starfish, but it is a little different.
It doesn't have tube feet. It moves with its rays.
It has rays that go up and rays that go down.



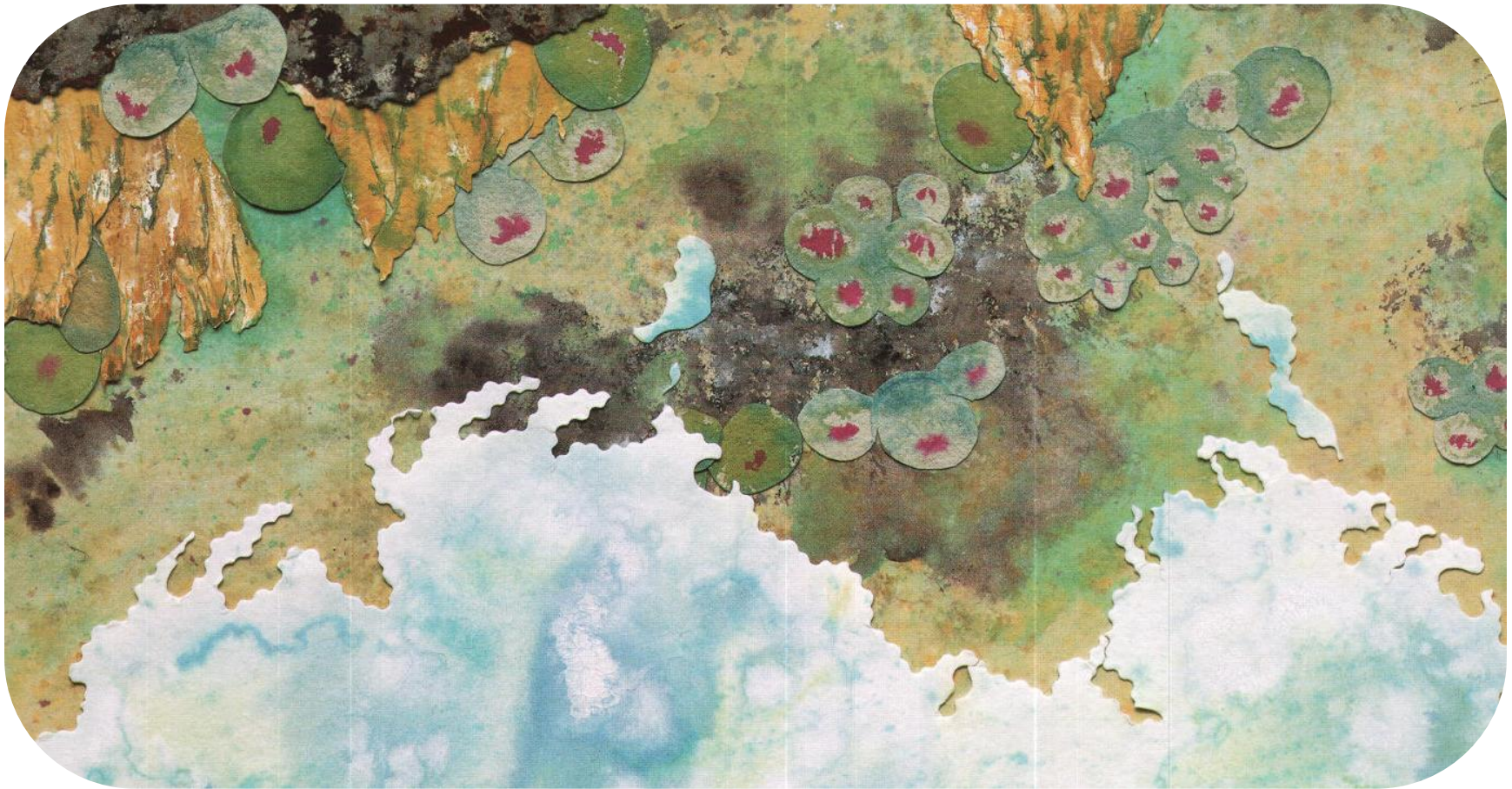
Tiny brittle stars are like the basket star.
They hide under rocks in pools by the sea.



The mud star hides in the mud.
It is a starfish. It has tiny tube feet.



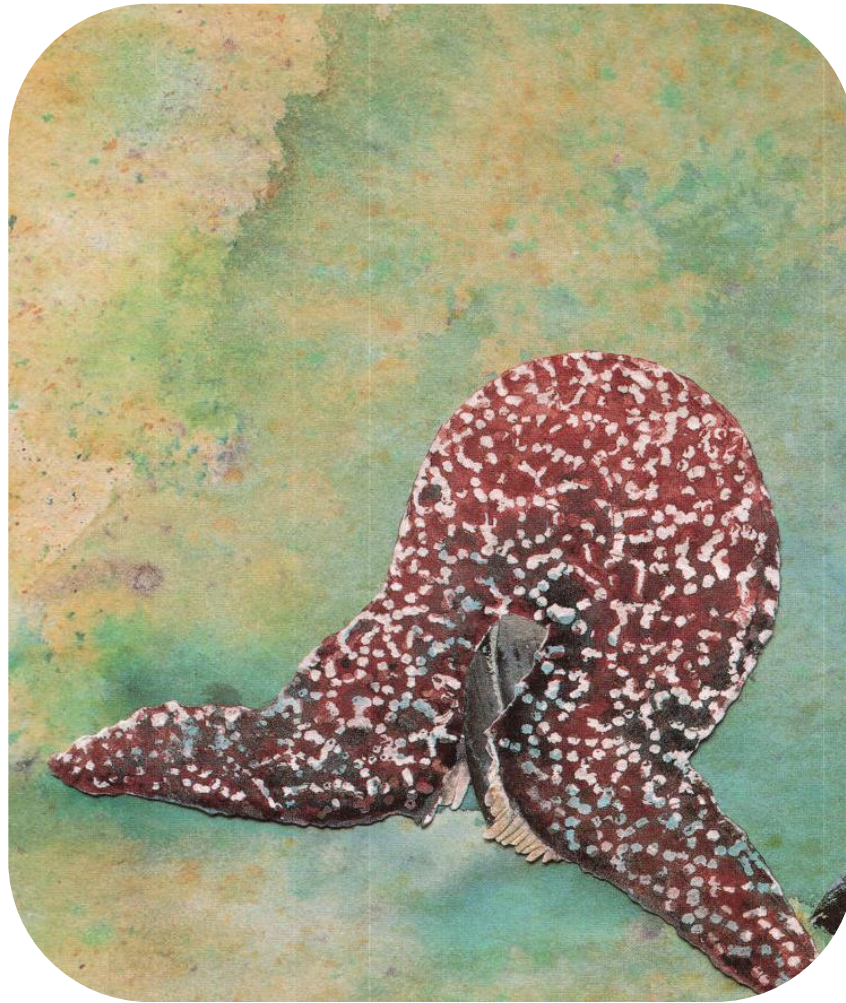
A starfish has no eyes. A starfish has no ears or nose.
Its tiny mouth is on its underside.
When a starfish is hungry, it slides and glides on its tiny tube feet.



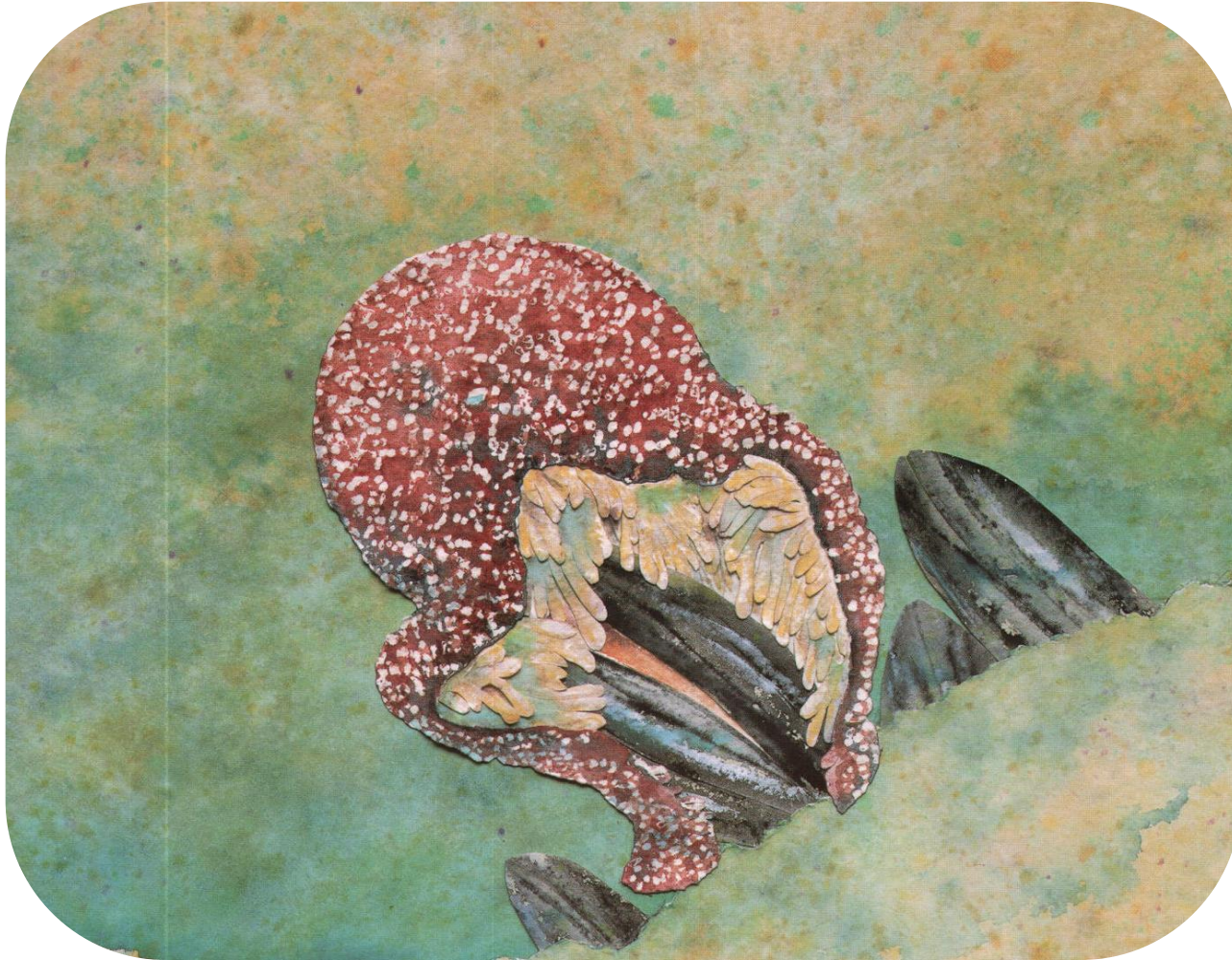
It hunts for mussels and oysters and clams.
It feels for the mussels. It feels for the oysters.
It feels for the clams. It feels for something to eat.



The starfish crawls over a clam. Its rays go over it.
Its rays go under it. Its rays go all over the clam.



The starfish pulls and pulls.
It pulls the shells open.
It eats the clam inside.



Sometimes a starfish loses a ray.
A crab may pull it off. A rock may fall on it.



But this does not hurt. It does not bother the starfish.
The starfish just grows another ray.



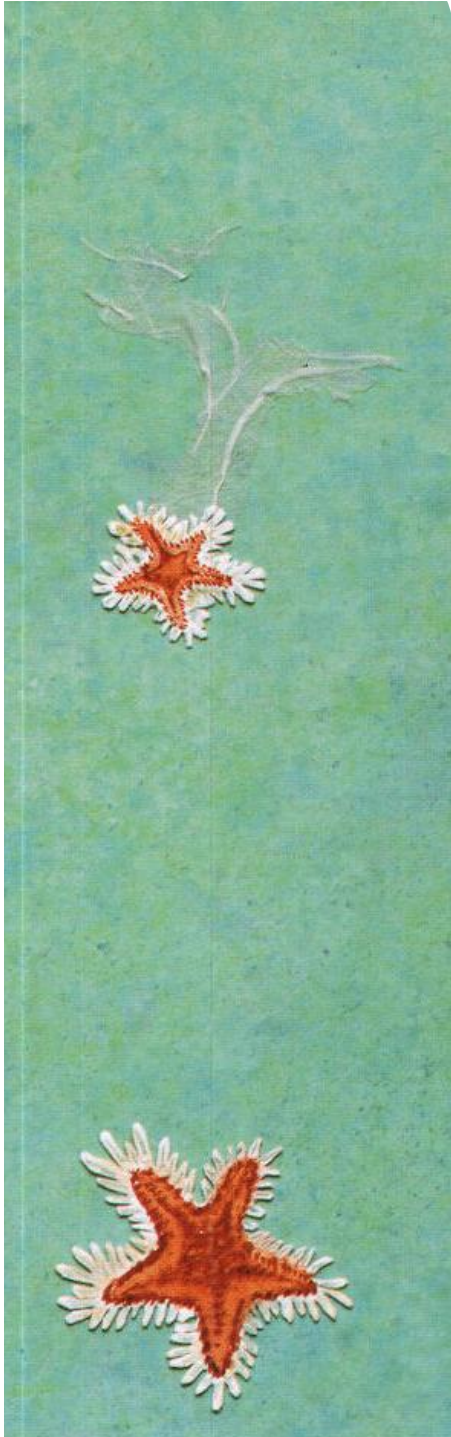


In the spring when the sun shines warm,
and the sea grows warm,
starfish lay eggs.

Starfish lay eggs in the water.
They lay many, many tiny eggs.

The eggs look like sand in the sea.

The tiny eggs float in the water.
They float up and down.
They move with the waves and tide,
up and down,
up and down.



The tiny eggs change and grow.

They float in the water.

They move with the waves,
back and forth, back and forth.

They sink to the bottom,
and they grow into tiny starfish.

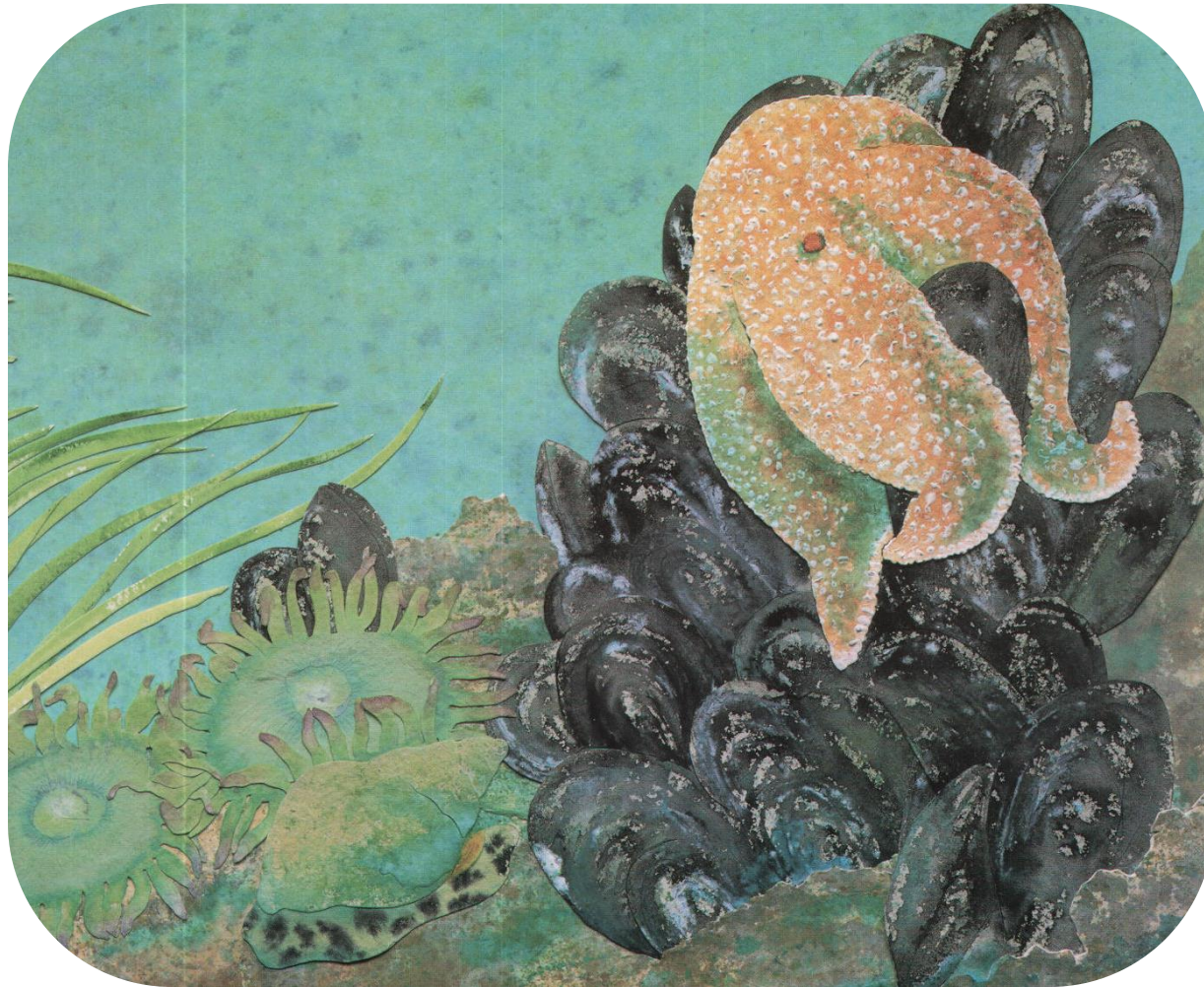
The tiny starfish grow scratchy and hard.
They grow little rays.
They grow tiny tube feet to crawl on.



Baby starfish eat and eat and EAT.
First they eat tiny things that float in the sea.



Then they eat mussels and oysters and clams.
They eat and they eat.
They grow and they grow.



There are many different starfish.
Some are fat. Some are thin. Some are prickly.



Some are prickly and pink.
Some are prickly and gray.
Some are just a tangle.



Look on the rocks by the sea.
Look in the pools by the sea.



Look for starfish,
the stars of the sea...

